

Black and Dr. Ogilvie have two of the finest voices I have ever heard and each time I hear them say something I become so envious that I have my voice and they have theirs.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, the Democratic leader is exactly right. That was our first comment. What is even more embarrassing is when you are side by side with either Lloyd Ogilvie or Chaplain Black and you have to sing, because their voices are so powerful, which does mean so much to us in terms of expressing feelings, emotion, and values. When it is applied to the beautiful voice of singing, it is especially embarrassing to me as they are next to me because the contrast is so dramatic.

It is a great pleasure for all of us to welcome Lloyd Ogilvie back with us this morning to open today with a prayer that struck at what we have seen the last couple of days, but also the real responsibility and obligations we have as Members of the Senate. We have been blessed with chaplains such as Chaplain Black and Chaplain Ogilvie to serve us and the American people so selflessly and unselfishly during our tenure.

TSUNAMI: LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I will comment on Judge Alberto Gonzales and his confirmation. Over the period for morning business, others will be coming by and speaking on the confirmation, although we do not officially begin until 10:45. Before doing that, I want to mention that tomorrow I will have the opportunity to testify before the Senate Commerce Committee. I was invited by Chairman STEVENS to speak on the long-term public health needs of the victims following the December 26 tsunami.

Early in January, Senator Mary Landrieu and I had the opportunity fairly early on in the recovery period to go to Sri Lanka where the observations were stark in many ways but in many ways inspiring, as we flew over the coastline in Sri Lanka and witnessed the unending devastation. We also saw on the ground the great outpouring of support, caring, and compassion, the best of humanity internationally but very specifically by Americans on the ground.

We all know from the tsunami we have the 5 million people who lost their homes and 150,000 people who lost their lives. The scars will be there for a long period of time. Senator STEVENS will have a hearing tomorrow to look at some appropriate initial responses in terms of prevention of that sort of catastrophe in the future. Tomorrow, I will be talking about a broad picture looking at public health issues such as cleaning of water and sanitation, and the role curing disease and public health can play as an expression of compassion and caring but also as a

wonderful currency of peace in its manifestation.

I will also be introducing legislation shortly addressing this whole challenge of water and the global issues surrounding water, the fact that 1.2 billion people in the world today do not have a clean glass of water. Unfortunately, these waterborne illnesses are the No. 1 killer of children in the world today because 1.2 billion people do not have access to that water.

We will be introducing legislation to address the global water supply, quality and quantity, that will address some of the basic issues, humanitarian in part but public health in large part as well. We can do a lot through our foreign assistance, where we have misdirected our foreign assistance or we have not even focused on water, which I believe it deserves. I will also mention the importance of having a global health corps that can respond to disaster in a way that we saw so many wonderful volunteers coming from around the world to respond to this tsunami. In the aftermath of a terrible tragedy such as this, medicine heals not only the body but also the hearts and minds. As the tsunami tragedy underscores so powerfully, medicine can act as a currency of peace.

NOMINATION OF ALBERTO GONZALES

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, today the debate and discussion throughout will be on the nomination of Judge Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General, and I am proud to be the first of many today to speak on this nomination and the strong support I have for this nominee. Judge Gonzales is a man of keen intellect, a man of high standing and achievement, and unwavering respect for the law. As our first Hispanic-American Attorney General, Judge Gonzales will stand as an inspiration to all Americans. He captures it in his life story. He is an outstanding choice to become our Nation's top law enforcement officer.

He has lived the American dream. We talk so much about the American dream. We point to people, parts of whose lives manifest the American dream. He lived it growing up in the town of Humble, TX, in a two-bedroom house shared by seven siblings and his mother and father. His parents, Pablo and Maria, were Mexican-American immigrants. They have little formal education. His dad completed second grade and that was it.

Inspired by his parents—as he tells it, their hard work—and spurred on by their encouragement, Judge Gonzales set his aspirations high and he was on the way. He has fulfilled them at every level. He played football and baseball in high school. On graduation, he joined the Air Force, from there enrolled in the Air Force Academy, and later transferred to Rice University. He became the first person in his family to go to college.

He didn't stop there. He was accepted at Harvard Law School, and with his Harvard law degree in hand he returned to Texas to join one of Houston's most respected law firms, and he was their first minority partner. At the firm, Judge Gonzales committed himself to the education of minority kids. He even helped create minority scholarships which to this day are awarded to those in need.

It didn't take long for people to recognize the tremendous talents of Judge Gonzales. He answered the call to public service. Newly elected Governor George Bush tapped Alberto Gonzales to join his administration as general counsel. He went on to become Texas's 100th secretary of state and then later a justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Every step of the way he has worked hard. He has won the respect of his peers. His integrity and talent have allowed him to receive numerous awards. Those sterling qualities have also garnered the trust and loyalty of the President of the United States. As counsel to the President for the last 4 years, he has been one of the President's closest advisers. President Bush credits Judge Gonzales for his candor and for his ability to remain steady in times of crisis—qualities that are essential in an Attorney General. As we all know, it has been noted that when President John F. Kennedy nominated his brother Robert to lead the Justice Department, the relationship worked so well because the President could count on his unflinching candor in times of crisis.

The biography of Judge Gonzales speaks for itself. I do think it is important to, up front, address some of the criticisms that have been leveled against him. More than a few facts have been lost in the debate. These issues will be talked about, I know, over the course of the morning.

First, President Bush does not have nor has his administration ever had an official Government policy condoning or authorizing torture or prisoner abuse. Let me restate for the record what the policy has been and continues to be from a Presidential memo dated February 7, 2002:

Our values as a Nation, values that we share with many nations in the world, call for us to treat detainees humanely, including those who are not legally entitled to such treatment. . . . As a matter of policy, the United States Armed Forces shall continue to treat detainees humanely and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity, in a manner consistent with the principles of the Geneva Conventions [governing the laws of war.]

Second, neither Judge Gonzales nor the President have condoned nor advocated nor authorized the torture of prisoners. In fact, on numerous occasions both have explicitly condemned torture as an abhorrent interrogation technique.

Third, Judge Gonzales was not the author but he was the recipient of